

Guam and other communities as far away as Springdale, Arkansas.

Many citizens of the Freely Associated States serve proudly in the United States military.

However, insufficient support from the federal government causes serious strain on local jurisdictions with significant Compact migrant communities.

The costs borne by GovGuam and other local governments are simply unsustainable.

Congress must act to provide federal relief to Guam and other jurisdictions required to serve these underprivileged Compact migrant communities.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what the Compact Impact Relief Act would do.

Our bill includes novel policy changes that would provide additional federal resources for Guam, Hawai'i, and other states and territories.

In particular, the Compact Impact Relief Act ensures that Guam—and other territories—can utilize fully important federal programs including: Job Corps centers funded by the U.S. Department of Labor; national and community service programs like AmeriCorps and the Youth Conservation Corps; and an accurate 10-year census that counts Compact migrant residents.

Our bill would permit Guam and other affected jurisdictions to apply costs spent providing public services to Compact migrants toward the non-federal portion required to provide Medicaid to Americans.

The bill also classifies Compact migrant schoolchildren as “federally connected students” to make local schools serving them eligible for impact aid funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

Importantly, our bill authorizes additional funding so that Compact migrant students do not take resources away from school districts receiving federal impact aid currently.

Next, our bill requires comprehensive assessments of: the Compacts and their implementation; the economies of jurisdiction affected by the Compacts and the three Freely Associated States; and the unique health needs of Pacific Islanders.

As the United States looks to renew the Compacts ahead of their expiration in fiscal year 2023, the federal government cannot continue to force local jurisdictions to shoulder the substantial costs of accommodating Compact migrants.

Guam and other states and territories affected by Compact migrants need to be reimbursed fairly for the costs of serving these underprivileged communities.

Congress must increase mandatory funding for Compact impact to the level recommended by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), as I have called for consistently.

In the meantime, I urge this House to pass the practical policy changes included in my Compact Impact Relief Act into law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, January 8,

and Tuesday, January 9, 2018, due to a family emergency.

If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows:

On the Quorum Call for establishing a quorum in the House of Representatives for the Second Session of the 115th Congress, I would have answered “present.”

On H. Res. 676, supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes, I would have voted “yea.”

On H.R. 4564, the Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017, I would have voted “yea.”

On H.R. 4581, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017, I would have voted “yea.”

IN HONOR OF PHYLLIS HAHN'S RECOGNITION FOR HER OUT- STANDING WORK SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Phyllis Hahn on being recognized with twin Certificates of Commendation for her outstanding cooperation and participation in serving our veterans.

Inspired by her family's long tradition of military service and the deep national patriotism and commitment to supporting our armed forces she grew up with during World War II, Phyllis has been dedicated to assisting and honoring our veterans for almost 70 years. Phyllis joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 1 at 15 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary No. 3511 one year later because she was too young to serve in the military herself. Since then, she has been an active and faithful member of both organizations, currently serving as the president of the American Legion Auxiliary and treasurer of the VFW Auxiliary.

Phyllis' patriotism and dedication to supporting our veterans is exceptional. She understands the needs of our former servicemen and is committed to giving them the assistance they need and deserve. Phyllis has made an excellent example to her friends, her family, and people across our state.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Phyllis Hahn for her recognition, and thank her for her commitment and many contributions to our veterans and to our great state.

RECOGNIZING GREG KOSTKA IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, each year for the past 57 years the Congress has passed annual legislation to authorize the

policies, programs, and activities of the Department of Defense. Today, we refer to this important legislation as the National Defense Authorization Act. Crafting this bill is no easy task, and it couldn't be done without the countless hours of work put in by the House Armed Services Committee staff and the attorneys at the House Office of Legislative Counsel. Today, I rise to honor a member of the legislative counsel team to thank him for his 31 years of service to the House of Representatives, and especially to the House Armed Services Committee.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Greg Kostka joined the House Office of Legislative Counsel in 1986 and has had a hand in the drafting of each National Defense Authorization Act since the Fiscal Year 1989 bill. While Greg's focus areas have been in military personnel, military justice, military construction, and readiness, he is known by his colleagues as someone capable of drafting in virtually any area of defense law if called upon. And from 2016 to 2017, Greg served as the defense team lead in the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Greg's expertise and interest in the military extended beyond his time drafting legislation in his office. As an amateur historian of the Civil War, Greg wrote an unofficial history of the role of the Third U.S. Regular Infantry during the American Civil War. I understand that he also participated in Civil War reenactments.

Greg was a regular participant in annual legislative update programs for the military's Judge Advocate Generals and accompanied committee staff on visits to several military installations. Greg brought his expertise and interest with him every day, and his work showed that he cared deeply about the men and women who serve in uniform.

Greg's professionalism and institutional knowledge have been greatly appreciated by his colleagues in the Office of Legislative Counsel as well as by Members and staff who have had the pleasure of working with him over the years. After 31 years of dedicated service to the House of Representatives, Greg announced his retirement from the Office of Legislative Counsel on December 31, 2017.

On behalf of all the Members and staff of the House Armed Services Committee, I offer my sincere gratitude to Greg for his expertise and wise counsel over the years and wish him, and his wife Jeanine, all the best in his retirement.

HONORING GUS FRANK, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gus Frank, Chairman of the Forest County Potawatomi Executive Council, who recently announced that he is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service to his tribe. Gus has worked tirelessly for the benefit of his people—and he's always done it with a smile on his face. I'm proud to have worked with Gus for several years on many issues affecting our communities and I'm proud to call him a friend. I congratulate him on his retirement. Gus has truly earned it.